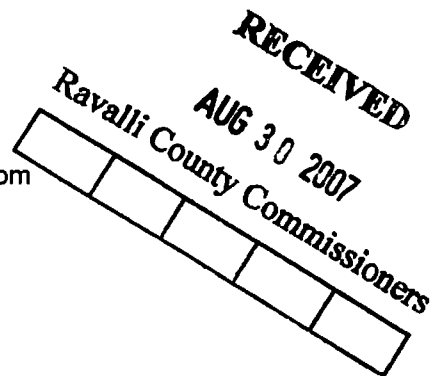


Bitterroot Star

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August 30, 2007

James Rokosch, Chairman, Ravalli County Commissioners
Kathleen Driscoll, Commissioner
Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner
Alan Thompson, Commissioner
Greg Chilcott, Commissioner

Dear Glenda and Commissioners,

This is a letter of request, based upon the Montana Public Records Act that guarantees citizens the right of access to public records, as well as the Montana Constitution, Article II, Sect. 9 which guarantees the public's right to know.

The request is for copies of all documents, including but not limited to letters, e-mails, recordings, notes from meetings or phone calls, or other records of any sort that pertain to the discussions involved in preparation of the Settlement Agreement in the case of Lords v. Ravalli County 07-CV-0002-DWM filed in U. S. District Court in Missoula.

In a case filed in Ravalli County District Court, seeking a preliminary injunction against the county preventing enforcement of the Settlement Agreement, some documents were summoned by the Plaintiffs, Bitterrooters for Planning, et al, from Commissioners Rokosch, Driscoll, and Grandstaff. The Bitterroot Star is requesting copies of those documents and any additional documents that may have been discovered since. The first document may have been dated May, 25, 2007 and exist in the form of an e-mail from Attorney Allen Chronister to Planning Director Karen Hughes, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, and Attorney Alex Beal.

In addition to these documents, the Bitterroot Star's current request includes any and all types of documents or records (as described above) that exist in relation to the Settlement Agreement that were either generated by, received by, or otherwise in the possession of County Administrator Glenda Wiles, Commissioners Thompson and Chilcott (in addition to the three mentioned above), as well as Planning Director Karen Hughes, and County Attorneys George Corn and Alex Beal. It is the newspaper's opinion based on the laws and constitution referenced above, that these documents relating to the Settlement Agreement do not enjoy the same protection afforded to client-attorney or litigation strategy confidentiality.

If the above request generates an inordinate amount of material, I will be glad to review all the material at an appropriate county office and make a determination as to what copies are truly required. The Bitterroot Star will pay a reasonable fee for all copies that are produced. The request for this information is urgent and a full response is expected within ten working days.

Thank you all for your consideration of this request,

Michael Howell
Publisher, Bitterroot Star

Cc: Commissioners
George Corn, County Attorney
Alex Beal, Deputy County Attorney

Karen Hughes, Planning Director